

(e) Government of India have been implementing various Research and Development projects to increase production and productivity in the rainfed areas, namely:

1. All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture.
2. National Watershed Development project for Rainfed Areas.
3. Drought Prone Areas programme
4. Desert Development Programme
5. National Pulses Development Project
6. Oilseeds Production Programme
7. Special Food Production Programme of Rice, Maize, Millets, etc.

Cost of Steel Production

5092. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of steel production is likely to be increased in view of the recent budget proposals;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase likely to take place as a result thereof;

(c) whether the cost of production of steel in the country is higher than that of other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of contribution of fuel, raw material, transport, administrative expenses, labour and taxes in the cost of production of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): The answer in respect of SAIL plants is as under:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of production of iron and steel will increase by around 1.5% as a result of recent Railway and Central Budget proposals:

(c) and (d). As no authentic and comparable information the cost of production of steel in other steel producing countries is available, it is not possible to compare the cost of production in these countries with India.

(e) The contribution to various elements of cost towards total cost of production of steel of four integrated steel plants of SAIL is as under:-

<i>Cost Element</i>	<i>% of Total Cost (Approx)</i>
Fuel including coking coal	22
Raw material	8
Transport (inward only)	9
Administrative expenses	3
Labour	15
Taxes	11